

THE BEGINNING OF GUIDANCE



Shaykh Sulaiman Moola

The Beginning of Guidance by Imam Ghazali

- We are all fasting during the day during the month of Ramadan and we close the fast by having iftar as the sun sets. We also forget that life in itself is also a fast for the believer and that the Day of Judgment is quickly approaching. The supreme Eid is when we meet our creator. Just as we spit out food if we have mistakenly put it within our mouth, we must also spit out our morality, as there will be iftar in the hereafter.
- In the previous sessions, Shaykh Sulaiman Moola spoke about staying away from sin as a means of attaining taqwa. He specifically spoke about the prohibitions of the eye. In this session, he goes into the limbs.
- At times we remember the ritual, but we forget the importance of the essence of the ritual, that the goal of certain rituals, such as Hajj, are to return in a state of cleanliness and reformation.

The Prohibitions of the Ear

- The ear should stay away from hearing that which is improper, such as backbiting. Shaytaan will have us enjoying that type of speech, as others claim it gives a level of excitement within speech. To avoid this illness, we should like the best for others and dislike the inferior for others, just as we would do for ourselves. The ears can help lead someone to a state of sin, just by listening. We should move away from the gatherings that speak poorly in general, those that mock Islam, and those that speak of the faults of others.
- We should avoid speaking about even the good qualities of other people, as it can lead to talking ill of others. Sometimes we appease ourselves by saying “I do not want to backbite, but” while actually backbiting. When we listen to that which is disliked, our ears will work against us, and be a form of our destruction. May Allah SWT forgive us.
- Allah SWT has given us ears to use them towards that which is good, like listening to the Qur’an and beneficial knowledge.

The Tongue

- When a child is in the womb, the blood transmits through the navel of the child, when normally we have sustenance through the mouth. This metaphorically preserves the tongue.

- The Prophet SAW would advise us to harness our tongue. Even uttering one thing wrong can be catastrophic and make wounds that difficult to prepare.
- The tongue was created to praise Allah SWT, to motivate others and inspire them towards that which is good. There are those who will be tossed into the Hellfire face first because of the harvest of their tongues. The Prophet SAW would summarize some of his advices by saying to take care of the tongue.
- Imam Al-Ghazali (may Allah have mercy on him) tells us to struggle to gain victory over our tongue and learn to restrain our tongue. One of the ways is premeditating statements and knowing that Allah SWT knows what I am going to say.

The Worst Use of the Tongue

- Imam Al-Ghazali talks about eight prohibitions of the tongue, however, Shaykh Sulaiman focused on the first and the worst, which is lying. A lie is a repugnant, an deplorable action.
- Allah SWT Himself paired its prohibition with idolatry, the worst of all sins. Lying is a major and deadly sin, just think about how we personally react to liars, as unpardonable and unforgivable. If you become known for lying, people will learn to distrust you. May Allah protect us.

FAQs

- What does this statement mean: "The world in its entirety is a fast for the believer?"
- Why do scholars say that our gaze is the "spark that ignites the fire"?
- What is the worst use of the tongue?
- What does Allah SWT pair its prohibition with?
- True or False: When you are in a gathering with people involved in gossip, it is ok for you to remain seated there so as not to seem impolite but remain quiet.
- When you are in a gathering, why should you be hesitant to even speak good of someone else?
- Allah says the pious ones are who?
- If you were to listen to something that is disliked, what will happen to things that were in your favor?
- Why is it important to be conscious of your sins?
- The author says that we should keep our tongues moist in what?
- Why is lying so deplorable according to Imam Gazzali?